

- 1 1. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:
2 a television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;
3 a display coupled to the set-top box for displaying output from the set-top
4 box;
5 an input device suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;
6 a database operatively coupled to the internal programmed processor, the
7 database comprising a catalog of merchandise available for purchase by a
8 consumer; and
9 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for
10 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise.
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12 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising order entry program
13 means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to
14 enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.
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16 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a swipe card reader
17 coupled to the programmed processor to permit the consumer to enter a swipe
18 card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.
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20 4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a
21 keyboard.
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1 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a
2 television display.

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4 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a high
5 definition television display.

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7 7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a
8 storage device situated within the set-top box, and further comprising a connection
9 to a catalog server, to thereby download updates of the catalog of merchandise to
10 the database.

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12 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a
13 catalog server, coupled to the set-top box via a cable television connection.

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15 9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a printer coupled to
16 the set-top box.

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18 10. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for receiving
19 updates to the database on a periodic basis.

11. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:

- a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;
- a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying output from the set-top box;
- a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;
- a storage device situated within the set-top box;
- a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise available for purchase by a consumer;
- means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;
- catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;
- order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise;
- a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise;
- a cable modem coupled to a catalog server, to thereby download updates of the catalog of merchandise to the database; and
- a printer coupled to the set-top box.

12. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:

- a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;
- a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying output from the set-top box;
- a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;
- a cable modem coupled the programmed processor to access a catalog server;
- means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis
- a storage device situated within a catalog server accessible by the set-top box using the cable modem;
- a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise available for purchase by a consumer;
- means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;
- catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;
- order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise;

- 1 a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the
- 2 consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the
- 3 catalog of merchandise; and
- 4 a printer coupled to the set-top box.

Patent for set-top box